Selling of Passport Forms at High Premium in Darjeeling

2972. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in Darjeeling some persons are selling passport forms at a high premium of rupees one hundred; and

(b) whether Government would take steps to make passport forms available through post offices in Darjeeling as in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government of India.

(b) Yes, Sir. The postal authorities have been authorised to print and sell passport, application forms at all the Head Post Office in the country, including at Darjeeling.

Sino-Indian Security Dialogue

2973. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maiden Sino-Indian Security dialogue was held recently in Beijing;

(b) if so, the details of discussion/outcome thereof and whether international/South Asia Security issues were also figured during the dialogue; and

(c) what was India's reaction to China's call for a rollback of its (India's) nuclear weapons programmes and honouring of United Nations Security Council resolution in this regard reported in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd April, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) The first round of India-China Security Dialogue was held in Beijing on March 6-7, 2000. An agreement to initiate such a dialogue was reached in June 1999, during the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Beijing. The discussions covered global and regional security issues and the importance of maintaining regional peace and security. Both sides agreed that the bilateral security dialogue is conducive to enhancing mutual understanding, expanding consensus and promoting cooperation.

(c) India conveyed to the Chinese side its security concerns and reiterated that the United Nations Security Council resolution 1172 was prescriptive and sovereignty intrusive. It was also conveyed that sensitivity to each other's security concerns was necessary for a productive dialogue.

Arms Training to ULFA Militants by Pakistan

2974. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report appearing in the Asian Age dated 15th March, 2000 regarding Assam Chief Minister's statement about the active involvement of Pakistan's High Commissioner in Dhaka in sending the ULFA militants to Pakistan for arms training by issuing passports under fake names; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the report appearing in the Assian Age of March 15, 2000. According to available information, the ULFA leadership is in close touch with some officials of the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka. There is also information that suggests that some ULFA leaders have procured foreign passports through fraudulent means with the assistance of officials of the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka.

Government have been regularly taking up various security related issues including cross-border terrorism and ISI's activities with Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. During the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group meeting on January 24-26, 2000, both sides reconfirmed their resolve not to allow undesirable elements to use their territories for activities prejudicial to the security interests of the other and agreed to share actionable intelligence through nodal officers.

Treaty regarding use of River Waters between India and Pakistan

2975. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any treaty in force regarding the use of river waters flowing from India to Pakistan;